

Lev 6: 1-7

V1 The Lord spoke to Moses

The Lord is concerned that His people have right relationships

V2-3 Sins committed in violation of property rights

The 1st scenario involved deceiving one's neighbor in regard to ~~the way~~ a deposit, a security or robbery. Similar to the way today's lending institutions require collateral for loans, an Israelite might hold something of value belonging to a neighbor as security for a business arrangement.

For the holder to be negligent or irresponsible in the management of the article, or ~~more~~ worse yet to refuse to return it, offended the Lord and defrauded his neighbor.

The 2nd scenario involves a person's finding something lost by lying about it to keep it for oneself. Such a person was guilty of stealing - or breaking the 8th commandment.

The 3rd scenario involves a person swearing falsely about any of the sinful things a person may do. To do so was to break the 9th commandment.

These sins demonstrate the direct connection between one's relationship \in God and one's relationship with other believers (1 John 4:20).

If someone says, "I love God" and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

How do we steal from people today? Let's think beyond tangible items to such matters as damaging a person's respect, honor, good name, self-esteem or trust.

v4 True repentance not only denies a restored relationship with God but also seeks reconciliation with others, who are harmed by our actions, including making restitution where possible.

Firstly, the Israelite who defrauded his neighbor in any of the ways mentioned was first to acknowledge the guilt incurred.

Secondly, the offender was to return what was taken.

v5 Thirdly, the offender was to make full restitution for it. He returns the full value of it plus a 20% of the stolen's article's value as part of the restitution. The payment was to be made on the same day that the offender brought his sacrifice to the sanctuary for receiving God's forgiveness.

We have God's word for it — Matt 5: 23-24

v6-7 These verses remind us that hurting one's neighbor also harms one's relationship with God. Offenders were to bring their restitution offering to the Lord.

Lev 6: 1-7 outline the steps we must do to do right when we've done wrong to others. We show our determination to do right when we seek not only to be forgiven of our wrongdoing but also to make restitution for the damage we've caused to others.

What makes a person holy? How do we live
godly lives?

Do we measure holiness by how many religions
rules a person knows or follows?

Do we measure holiness by church attendance?

Do we measure holiness by ^{how} many people someone

has
led
to
Christ?

Do we
measure
holiness
by a
person's
giving
or
prayer life?

The principles →

Study Theme (March – May 2010)
Exodus & Leviticus
"Becoming Holy By God's Design"

March 7-April 11 – Design for Redemption
Exodus 1-18

April 18-May 9 – Design for Relationship
Exodus 19-40

May 16 – May 30 – Design for Right Living
Leviticus 1-27

Leviticus 1-7 – Relating through Offerings

From the tent of meeting, God revealed the main components of the Israelite sacrificial system. At its heart were five types of offerings:

- ☐ Burnt offering
- ☐ Grain offering
- ☐ Fellowship sacrifice
- ☐ Sin offering
- ☐ Restitution offering

These offerings were designed to help God's purpose restore right relationship with the Lord and with one another.

The Israelites already had shown they were prone to act sinfully by falling away into idolatry. God gave them a sacrificial system by which they could confess their sins and make restitution for damages done to others.

**"Do Right
When You
Do Wrong"**

Leviticus 6:1-7

Biblical Truth

Steps believers must take to do right when we've done wrong to others.

To admit our wrongdoing and to make restitution for any damage our actions cause.

While we need to recognize and confess our sin and seek to renew our relationships with God we need to remember our sin affects others too.

Make Restitution Where Possible, Lev 6:1-7

Why restitution must be a sacrifice?

"I'm giving until it hurts because I want to show how sorry I am that I hurt you."

Why do we make restitutions?

- o We don't make restitution to be forgiven.
- o We make restitution because we are forgiven.
- o We want to show that we are serious about wanting to be right with those we offend.

Make Restitution Where Possible, Lev 6:1-7

Example:

A husband steals his wife's trust by being unfaithful.

Suggested Restitutions:

1. He must confess he was wrong with no excuses or blaming.
2. He begins to rebuild her trust by allowing her access to all cell phone records, receipts, email and internet histories.
3. He gives back that trust, plus more.

"A Good (Clear Conscience)"
Gaining The Inner Radiance
Of A Transparent Life

It is a foundation for Christian ministry

"We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you" (2 Cor 1:12, NLT).

from Lev are relevant for us today? Why?

We live in a culture in which many have adopted as their life motto: never admit guilt.

Even Christians sometimes seem unwillingly to own up to clear wrong doing. We use ~~tactics~~ tactics

such as denying we committed the wrong, arguing what we did wasn't really wrong or attempting to re-direct the blame onto others.

A GOOD (CLEAR) CONSCIENCE

It is next to faith, the most essential weapon for successful spiritual achievement.

"Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith."

(1 Tim 1:18-19, TNIV).

A GOOD (CLEAR) CONSCIENCE

It enables us to witness effectively.

"And keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame" (1 Peter 3:16, NASB).

A GOOD (CLEAR) CONSCIENCE

Even health and physical appearance are affected by the lack of a good conscience.

¹ *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.*

³ *When I kept silent (in confessing my sin), my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long (the weight of guilt).*

⁴ *For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer* (Psal 32, NKJV).

A GOOD (CLEAR) CONSCIENCE

A sensitive conscience is the mark of a mature Christian.

Spiritual sensitivity is the mark of Christian maturity.

"For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.

Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong" (Heb 5:13-14, NLT).

Definition Of A Good (Clear) Conscience

"aproskopos" = "void of offense"

The term means

- having nothing for one to strike against
- not causing one to stumble.

The Goal Of A Good (Clear) Conscience

Definition Of A Good Conscience

A good conscience involves that inner freedom of spirit toward God and others that comes by knowledge that God's holiness is not offended by one's thought or action.

A good conscience is when no one can point a finger at you and say, *"You've offended me, and you've never asked for my forgiveness."*

Identifying The Problem

What is the greatest single hindrance to gaining a good conscience?

The feeling that the ones we offended were wrong too!

Our focus on blaming them balances our own guilt and forces us to live with guilt and blame.



Guilt — Blame

Identifying The Problem



Guilt — Blame

It is our natural inclination to find other people or circumstances which are to blame for what we have done in order to justify or excuse our offenses.

The greater our guilt, the more we must blame. The resulting bitterness and guilt are devastating to our mental and emotional balance.

Identifying The Problem



A Splinter



The Beam

A "splinter" and a "beam" are actually the same size when viewed from reverse perspective. When we sensed that our brother is offended because of "some little thing we did to him," we must remember that in his eye this "little thing" is a beam!

We may think we were only 10% wrong, but in his eye we were 90% wrong.

Responding To Grace To Gain A Good Conscience

Step 1: List those whom you have offended.

1. Look into the "mirror" of memory.
2. Look into the "mirror" of other's attitudes toward you.
3. Look into the mirror of God's Word and be a doer of the Word (Jas 1:23-25).
4. Take a moment now and look into these three mirrors and write down the names of people God brings to mind.

Step 2: List Their Offenses

The 2nd step in solving conflicts with a particular person is to privately list all the offenses which he/she has committed against you.

Examples of offenses:

- ☐ Promising to do something for me and failing to keep the promise
- ☐ Refusing to understand why I do certain things
- ☐ Taking out their frustrations on me



Step 2: List Their Offenses

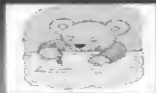
Examples of Offenses:

- ☐ Refusing to understand why I do certain things
- ☐ Telling me not to do things I see them doing
- ☐ Expecting too much work from me at home
- ☐ Being too strict in punishing me for things I did do
- ☐ Punishing me for things I didn't do
- ☐ _____

Step 3: List Your Offenses

List your offenses in order of gravity and magnitude:

- ☐ Poor attitude
- ☐ Ungratefulness
- ☐ Stubbornness
- ☐ Untruthfulness
- ☐ Bitterness
- ☐ Laziness



Step 4: Define The Approach

1. Identify The Basic Offenses

It is important to distinguish between immediate offenses and basic offenses.

Illustration 1: "Friday, I came home for lunch and both of my brothers were there.

When I came in the door, the first thing my younger brother said was, 'What are you doing here?' I said that I came home for lunch. Then he said, 'Well, you can just go back to school where you belong.'"

Step 4: Define The Approach

1. Identify The Basic Offenses

"Since they were before me, they should have had my lunch ready. But they hadn't done a thing.

I said, 'Why didn't you fix me something?' My brother said, 'We didn't feel like it!' When I asked why they were acting that way, they said that it was none of my business. We had a few strong words.

After this, I ended up going back to school without eating lunch and by being very disappointed with my brother."

Step 4: Define The Approach

1. Identify The Basic Offenses

Statement by Offending Party	Immediate Reaction	Basic Offense
"Well, you can just go back to school where you belong!"	"A few strong words."	Wounded pride. Expecting to be served. Failure to serve one another in love.

Step 4: Define The Approach

1. Identify The Basic Offenses

Illustration 2

Actual Offense	Wrong Confession	Right Confession
Bitter attitudes toward a person for damaging your reputation	"Please forgive me for being bitter toward you." (Implies blame for causing the bitterness)	"God has convicted me of how wrong I have been toward you in not showing you the love that I should have. Would you forgive me?"

Step 4: Define The Approach

1. Identify The Basic Offenses

Illustration 3

Actual Offense	Wrong Confession	Right Confession
Behaving improperly on a date	"I realize that I was wrong in necking with you on our date. Will you forgive me?"	"I realize that I have been wrong in my selfish actions and attitudes toward you when we're dating. It would mean a great deal to me if you would forgive me. Would you forgive me?"

This is most ppl's favorite. It is really saying
 If my personality (for which I'm not responsible) has
 offended you, there must be something wrong with your
 ability to get along with ~~me~~ others. But I'll be big hearted about
 and assume that maybe it is my fault (for which I'm not fully
 concured it is) and ask you to forgive me - if you still think
 I'm
 wrong,
 that is.

Step 4: Define The Approach

2. Select the words carefully

Identify the basic causes or nature of the offenses.

Reflect full repentance and sincere humility (don't try to justify or blame).

There are several ways to ask forgiveness which are guaranteed not to work - such as, "I was wrong, but you were too"

"If I was wrong, please forgive me. I'm sorry"

This statement not only reflected pride but also a basic bitterness toward the offender.

Step 4: Define The Approach

3 Determine the proper mode/manner & form to ask forgiveness

☐ A phone call

☐ A personal visit

☐ A letter

4. Is this a convenient time?

5. Is it a time you would be uninterrupted?

6. Would he/she be in the proper mood to grant forgiveness?

Special Cautions In Asking Forgiveness

1. Confess only to those offended.

2. Clear greatest offenses first.

3. Avoid giving sensual details (David's prayer in Psalm 51 & the prodigal son's confession in Lk 15).

4. Expect possible rejection of your request for forgiveness.

Special Cautions In Asking Forgiveness

4. Expect possible rejection of your request for forgiveness.

The one you ask for forgiveness may have a balance of guilt and blame.



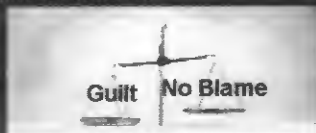
Feelings of guilt for his attitudes or actions toward you

Blame toward you for the things you have done to him

Special Cautions In Asking Forgiveness

4. Expect possible rejection of your request for forgiveness.

AFTER you ask for his forgiveness you upset the balance of guilt and blame within his mind and emotions.



When there is no blame to justify and balance his past wrongs, his guilt intensifies

Special Cautions In Asking Forgiveness

5. Be as brief as possible.

6. Don't involve others in your confession.

7. Clear your conscience quickly.

8. Wait for God's timing to witness.

The Reward

The reward of those who gain a good conscience and who helps others gain a conscience void of offense toward God and man:

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they will be called children of God" (TNIV).

"God blesses those who work for peace, for they for they will be called the children of God" (NLT).

The Purpose Of A Good (Clear) Conscience

1. Ability to build genuine friendships - Caring 141 & Evangelism 121
2. Boldness to witness (1 Peter 3:15-16) - Evangelism 121
3. Alertness to make wise decisions.
4. Freedom to resolve conflicts.
5. Power to overcome temptations.
6. Freedom from self-condemnation (Rom 8:1; Heb 10:17; 1 John 3:20-21).

1 Ability to build genuine friendships

The most basic quality needed for friendship is sincere humility. This is one quality which is sure to result from gaining a good conscience.

2 Boldness to witness

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that ask you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness & fear: Having a good conscience; that; whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ" (1 Peter 3:15-16).

3

4

5

6. Freedom from self condemnation

Condemnation is not the believer's birthright Rom 8:1
If God remembers no more, should we Heb 10:17

1 John 3:20-21 - If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our heart and know all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God."

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"